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Dockets and Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom it may concern,

in reference to docket numbers 98n-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197, I would like to address the issues involved.

The inclusion of warning labels and egg refrigeration temperatures on egg cartons is not enough protection for us as the consumers of egg products. More protection before the eggs reach our houses, or even our grocery markets are also necessary to protect the health of citizens. There is a step that could greatly improve the safety of eggs in the marketplace and as such would help eliminate health costs resulting from contaminated eggs. That step is to stop forced molting.

Forced molting is a highly stressful practice for egg laying hens and because of that stress their immune system suffers. If the immune system of the hen providing our eggs is weakened, the chances of contracting dangerous levels of bacteria increases. As a result, forced molting can lead to contaminated eggs and that poses increased risks to us as the consumers.

That means that forced molting is a health risk to humans and increases our chances of a bacteria born illness from consuming eggs. The labels would merely state the danger, while doing nothing to actually prevent it. By eliminating the practice of forced molting, a direct action to protect the health of the consumer is taken.

Because of the risks associated with this practice and the increased levels of contamination it causes, it is in the best interests for us as consumers to make sure that forced molting be banned immediately!

Thank you,

  
Matthew Fleming

96P-0418

c563

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C563

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C564  
96P-0418/C563